REMARKS OF MR. WHITCOMB,

OF INDIANA, In the Senate, on Thursday last, in defence of General Lane.

Mr. WHITCOMB. Mr. President, I wish very briefly to do justice to an absent individual, who, and whose friends, had not anticipated the imputation upon his official conduct that was thrown out the other day by the Senator from Ohio. I allude to the case of Gen. Lane, late Governor of Oregon. The Senator assigned as a reason for his removal that he had delayed making a report for an unreasonably long time. There was no statement that he had not made a report, but merely that he had delayed it. Nor was any exception taken to the character of the report itself, as to its fulness, its accument or its heins satisfactory in every remed.

merely that he had delayed it. Nor was any exception taken to the character of the report itself, as to its fulness, its accuracy, or its being satisfactory in every respect.

When making a few remarks the other day, repelling that attack, I was, as I then intimated, not in possession of the facts necessary to enable me to do full justice to Gen. Lane. I have since had time to possess myself of some authenticated particulars, a simple statement of which, in addition to what I then said, will be sufficient for his triumphant vindication. I now wish in brief terms to place them upon the record, in order that the charge may be accompanied by its refutation.

1849, even supposing him to commence his labors the moment he arrived in Oregon, without an interval of rest after his long and fatiguing journey.

But, independent of this consideration, he would have been justified, I presume, in postponing action in the premises, and remaining quiescent, in the absence of the formal written instructions which had been prepared for his guidance, but which did not reach him in Oregon until the middle of June, about three months and a half after his arrival. Besides, but a partial supply of funds was received by him to defray the necessary expenses, and that not until the month of April.

What was Gen. Lane's conduct under these circumstances? Did he avail himself of any of these excuses, legitimate as they were, to defer action and to consult his own case and quiet? No, sir; the very day after his arrival he issued his proclamation, and appointed suitable persons to take the census in every part of the Territory. The enumeration was accomplished, and accomplished too without a cent of money. But the want of money was compensated by his personal influence, by the confidence and attachment he inspired among the people, and by the zeal in the public service of those whom he employed. The apportionment was made among the different districts, the election was held, and the Legislature finally convened in the early part of July, only two or three weeks after the instructions came to hand; and not until these instructions arrived were appointments received of sub-agents of Indians, whose duty it was to aid the Governor in the collection of information for the preparation of his report, which he is now consured for delaying "an unreasonably long time." No sub-agents received their appointments to assist him until the middle of June, and yet it was determined, and ectually attempted to remove him by the appointment of a successor (a citizen of Indiana) on the 9th of August following. Here, then, we have the late Cabinet, in the plenitude of their magnanimity, allowing Gen. Lane less But the want of money was compensated by his personal influence, by the confidence and attachment he inspired among the people, and by the zeal in the public service of those whom he employed. The apportionment was made among the different districts, the election was held, and the Legislature finally convened in the early part of July, only two or three weeks after the instructions came to hand; and not until these instructions arived were appointment received of sub-agents of Indian, whose duty it was to aid the Governor in the collection of information for the preparation of his report as Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Yes, of this very report, which he is now censured for delaying "an unreasonably long time." No sub-agents received their appointments to assist him until the middle of June, and yet it was determined, and extually attempted to remove him by the appointment of a successor (a citizen of Indians) on the 9th of August following. Here, then, we have the late Cabines, in the plenitude of their magnanimity, allowing Gen. Lane less than two months within which to examine 350,000 square miles of territory, and to ascertain, as far as practicable, the names, location, numbers, character, and disposition of the various tribes and bands of Indians inhabiting its surface, and for his report afterwards to reach Washington. Bear in mind, too, that there was no regular mail communication with Oregon until June last.

I have said that Gen. Lane did not wait for money or instructions before entering upon the active discharge of his due to secure the bonds of a lasting peace with the tribes surface, and for his report afterwards to reach Wa

small, too, that there was no regular mail communication with Oregon until June has to great mail communication.

I have said that Gen. Lane did not wait for money or instructions before entering upon the active discharge of his didnites. Bot, sir, he was not satisfied to stop there. Although, as before remarked, his executive duites claimed his first regards, yet he found time, besides discharging them promptly, to give his unwarried and personal attention to his duites. Superintendent of Indian Affaira. Long before any subsequence of the proper of the superintendent of Indian Affaira. Long before any subsequence of the resolution of the state of the people over whom he are already to the headted miles, poing and returning, to certain tribes on the Columbia river, on business connected with the duttee of his office, held in effecting a peace between two others that were at war with each other. In the following month, (May,) hearing of the murder of Wallace by the Indians of Pagus's Sound, at some two hearder miles distance, and that they threatened to destroy the settlement there, consisting of the murder of Wallace by the Indians of Pagus's Sound, at some two hearder miles distance, and that they threatened to destroy the settlement there, consisting of the market of the people of the market of

made as to its character or sufficiency. Nor does it appear that aby particular benefit would have resulted from its earlier preparation, even had that been possible.

Mr. President, I referred on a former occasion to the fact that Gen. Lane's successor—Major Gaines—with his family, were favored by the late Cabinet with a passage to Oregon in a Government vessel, and at the public expense. I have since ascertained, on inquiry, that, although it is now more than since his appointment, yet he, even he, has not yet made his report as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, with all the advantage of his predecessor's labors to aid him.

And now, in the face of this array of facts and dates, the ground is taken that Gen. Lane was removed on account of delay in making his report!

Mr. EWING. Mr. President, I did not say so. I did not say it was because he delayed in making his report. What I said was, that he had delayed in making a report as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and that there were complaints from the Territory. I did not say any thing about his removal further than that.

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perintendent of Indian Affairs, and as to the purity of his private life. These resolutions were passed as late as the 18th of May last, after his removal from office, when he had again of May last, after his removal from office, when he had again mingled among his fellow-citizens as a private individual, and without official favor or patronage to bestow. They were a voluntary tribute of regard to a retiring officer, who had just relinquished the power and influence of office to his successor, by whose appointment he had been supplanted. They were passed too, I believe, unanimously, (and of course without distinction of party.) and yet the third resolution significantly expresses the sincere regret of the Assembly that the President of the United States had deprived the people of Oregon of the future services of one so eminently useful, and who enjoyed "the unbounded confidence of the people over whom he was placed."

Resolved. That in the discharge of his executive duties as Governor of Oregon, he has uniformly acted with a view to the best interests of the whole people, and that his demeanor in office has afforded no ground of just complaint, but on the contrary has been such as to meet the best expectations and warment wishes of the people.

Resolved. That they regret sincerely that the President of the United States has deprived the Territory of Oregon of the future services of one so eminently useful, and whose usefulness was enhanced by the unbounded confidence of the people over whom he was placed.

Resolved, That the conduct of Gen. Lane in his private life has been such as to secure the warmest friendship of the people, and the purity of his private relations has not been less than his energy has been great in the discharge of his official duties.

A. L. LOVEJOY, Speaker.

SAM. PARKER, President.

Passed 18th May, 1850.

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which have so long and so disastrously agitated the country, that at some early period during the present session this subject will be taken up and dealt with an a spirit of kindness, and harmony, and nationality.

Sir, after having said so much, I move that the memorial be referred to the Committee on Manufactures, and I ask that it be printed, and that that question be referred to the proper committee to decide.

The memorial was referred to the Committee on Manufactures and the question of printing was referred to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. BENTON, agreeably to notice, saked leave to bring in bill to remit the tolls on the United States stock in the Louisville and Portland canal company, and to purchase the shares of individual stockholders, and to make the navigation of the canal free.

On presenting his bill to ask this leave, Mr. B. said:

Mr. President: It is known to all that the United States own a part of the shares in the Louisville and Portland canal company, and levy and collect tolls thereon—that these tolls are heavy, and oppressive upon Western commerce, and its researcy. The sam estimated for the support of the navy—chiefly kept up for the protection of foreign commerce, and for defence in the wars in which it may involve us—in, for defence in the wars in which it on the lighthouses and free from all tolls for profit or emolument. These applications, often made, have heretofore been abortive: but, conplish their object, impelled to it not only by general considerations in favor of the whole west, but by special reasons applicable to the commerce between St. Louis and Louisville, and which, from the frequency of the voyages between the vop laces, makes the toll fall with greatest weight upon the vop laces, makes the toll fall with greatest weight upon the commerce and that annu-

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So the motion was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. GWIN, the Senate then proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and after some time spent therein the doors were re-opened and the Senate ad-

PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS IN CALIFORNIA.

Mr. GWIN. Mr. President, in accordance with the notice of the second of the se